

BEVERLY EAVES PERDUE
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Perdue Appoints Thigpen to North Carolina Court of Appeals

RALEIGH - Gov. Bev Perdue today appointed Special Superior Court Judge Cressie Thigpen to the North Carolina Court of Appeals. Judge Thigpen, a distinguished jurist and former president of the N.C. State Bar, will fill the vacancy created by the recent confirmation of Judge Jim Wynn to the United States Court of Appeals for the Fourth Circuit.

“Judge Thigpen is extraordinarily well qualified for the appeals court,” Perdue said. “The high marks he has earned as a trial judge are a reflection of his legal skills, experience and his commitment to the law and public service.”

Thigpen’s appointment will expire at the end of the year. Next week he plans to file as a candidate for election in November for an eight year term on the Court of Appeals beginning in January 2011.

Judge Thigpen was appointed as a special superior court judge in 2008 after more than three decades as a litigator in state and federal courts. He was a partner in the law firm now known as Blue, Stephens & Fellers. In addition to his 1999 election as president of the state bar – the first African-American to hold that post, Thigpen was inducted into the N.C. Bar Association General Practice Hall of Fame in 2007.

He recently served as chairman of the board of trustees of N.C. Central University, his alma mater, and has served on the board of trustees for the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill.

Judge Thigpen received his bachelor’s degree from NCCU in 1968 and his law degree from Rutgers University in 1973.